

Life More Abundantly

John 10:9-10

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What does the name “Christian” mean?

Today the term Christian is used loosely.

- Sometimes it is used to refer specifically to those who know Christ as Savior.
- To the world of Islam, the term is synonymous with the non-Islamic West & synonymous with pagan.
- It is a term of derision in many cases because of our claims of exclusivity & failures of prominent leaders of Christian organizations.

Is Christ relevant in our world today?

Listen to some of the words of Jesus in Matthew’s gospel and ask if they are relevant to us:

- Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (4:17)
- Come, follow me. (4:20)
- Blessed are the poor in spirit (5:3)
- Let your light shine before men. (5:16)
- Love your enemies. (5:44)
- Forgive others their trespasses. (6:14)
- Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on the earth. (6:19)
- Don’t worry about anything. (6:31)
- Build your house on the rock of obedience. (7:24-27)
- Proclaim as you go, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (10:7)
- On the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak. (12:36)
- Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me. (16:24)

- Love the Lord your God. (22:37)
- Love thy neighbor as thyself. (22:39)
- Go and make disciples of all peoples. (28:19)

What is the focus of salvation?

Listen to the invitation Jesus has offered to mankind:

- “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6, KJV)
- “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35, NLT)
- “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.” (John 8:12, NLT)
- “I am the doorway into the kingdom of heaven. Those who come through me will be safe. They will go in and out and find all they need. I have come into their world that they may have life, and life to the limit.” (John 10:9-10, Par.)

What is the focus of Jesus’ invitation?

The focus is Life!

The Gospels we have today are defined by some as "gospels of sin management."

“Christians aren’t perfect, just forgiven.”

Is that all there is to Christianity?

Christianity is about God and His glory and His purpose.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God – or they are incapable of achieving the glory of God.

Philippians 2:9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Confidence in Our Salvation

Instead, the Bible says very clearly (John 6:44), “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”

Jesus himself said (John 6:45), “No one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

Jesus said (John 14:6), “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

He said in Matt. 11:27, “...no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

We don’t invite Jesus into our hearts.

God invites us into His kingdom, because He has a purpose to fulfill in and through our lives.

Christianity is not about a singular experience from your past when you walked an aisle or prayed some prayer.

Instead, Christianity is about life – the Christ life.

Are you a child of God?

Have you been born again?

Has there been transformation in your life?

Is God continuously working in your heart even today?

How the disciple lives naturally comes out of who the disciple is.

Who the disciple is will be evidenced by how the disciple lives.

Do you plan our life around Christ and the body of Christ – the church?

Or do you simply fit Christ in to the empty time niches that you can force yourself to spare when it is convenient in your busy life?

Jesus said, “I have come that you might have life, and life more abundantly – surpassingly, exceedingly, supremely, more than is necessary, over and above all that you might even imagine.”

That is God’s invitation to us.